

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's statement that Claims 2-5, 17, 20-21, 28-31, 34-35 and 71-81 have allowable subject matter. In response to the Examiner's statement that a terminal disclaimer with respect to copending applications 09/197,767 and 09/550,598 must be filed, Applicants are filing herewith such a terminal disclaimer. Applicants are enclosing herewith a check for \$110.00 for the disclaimer. If any further fee should be due, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Accordingly, it is requested that these claims now be allowed.

Applicants will now address the Examiner's remaining objections and rejections in the order in which they appear in the Office Action.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to Claims 43 and 49 as being of improper dependent form. While Applicants disagree with the Examiner, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, Claims 43 and 49 have been canceled, rendering this objection moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

The Examiner has the following rejections under 35 USC §103:

(a) Claims 1, 6, 8, 42, 44-45 and 48-70 are rejected as being unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Shimada.

(b) Claims 16, 18 and 22-27 are rejected as being unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Shimada and further in view of Misawa et al.; and

(c) Claim 19 is rejected as being unpatentable over Sato et al., Shimada and Misawa and further in view of Kunii et al.

While each of these rejections is respectfully traversed, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, these claims have been canceled, rendering these rejections moot. Accordingly, it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants filed an IDS on February 20, 2004 with an RCE. The undersigned did not see a marked-up copy of the 1449 form with the latest Office Action. It is requested that such a marked-up copy now be issued.

Conclusion

As explained above, only allowable claims remain in this application. Accordingly, it is requested that it now be allowed.

If any fee is due for this Amendment, please charge deposit account 50/1039.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark J. Murphy", is written over a horizontal line.

Mark J. Murphy
Registration No.: 34,225

COOK, ALEX, McFARRON, MANZO
CUMMINGS & MEHLER, LTD.
200 West Adams Street, Suite 2850
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312)236-8500